Paula N. Arnold, Norwich Univ. Lib., Northfield, Vt.

Jones, Jack. **Let Me Take You Down: Inside the Mind of Mark David Chapman, the Man Who Killed John Lennon.**
Villard: Random. Nov. 1992. c.288p. photogs. ISBN 0-679-41144-5. $21. CRIME

In 1980, Chapman gunned down ex-Beatle John Lennon in New York City and pled guilty to second-degree murder; he is now an inmate at Attica prison. This account of his life and the obsessive forces that culminated in the death of his former idol is based largely on Chapman's recollections. Jones's book would have been strengthened by a critical analysis of Chapman's pathology (he is variously described as psychopathic, schizophrenic, and narcissistic) but nonetheless it is engrossing reading and far superior to Fenton Breslar's *Who Killed John Lennon?* (*LJ* 8/89). A good addition to the literature about violence directed against celebrities, this book will appeal to students of abnormal psychology and true crime fans. Recommended where interest warrants.—*Gregor Preston, Univ. of California Lib., Davis*

Labor Law in America: Historical and Critical Essays.
Johns Hopkins. (Symposia in Comparative History). 1992. c.368p. ed. by Christopher L. Tomlins & Andrew J. King. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-8018-4362-6. $55. LAW

Integrating labor and legal history in a set of scholarly essays, this synthesis of the two disciplines presents papers from a 1990 conference on the history of American labor law. Included are 11 chapters by legal, political science, and history professors spanning American history from the Revolution to the decline of unionism after World War II. The thread of labor law history binds the essays, but each is a separate historical article treating a different subject and employing different research methods. Included are the early 19th-century *Cordwainers'* case, an intriguing essay on the criminalization of vagrancy in the post–Civil War North, and an excellent case study of the impact of the *Danbury Hatters'* case on the individuals immediately involved. The essays make a strong case for combining the two historical fields and, in turn, reveal much about the sociological, political, and economic history of labor law. A scholarly book, *Labor Law in America* is recommended for academic and research libraries.—*Boyd Childress, Auburn Univ. Lib., Ala.*

McCumber, David.
X-Rated: The Mitchell Brothers; A True Story of Sex, Money, and Death.
S. & S. Nov. 1992. c.461p. photos. ISBN 0-671-75156-5. $23. CRIME

In 1991, the killing of Artie Mitchell by his older brother Jim stunned San Francisco. After all, the city's famous, or rather infamous, citizens had been innovative pornographers whose classic *Behind the Green Door* transformed the adult film industry and whose O'Farrell Theatre was the "Carnegie Hall of Public Sex." What led these colorful, unpredictable brothers to their tragically violent end? Journalist McCumber attempts to find the answers, but his book is an awkward mishmash of two separate stories. On the personal level, it is a classic Cain and Abel tale of the responsible older brother tired of taking care of an abusive sibling addicted to sex, drugs, and alcohol. On a broader front, the Mitchells' story symbolizes the sexual revolution of the 1960s and 1970s. Because McCumber tries to cram in so much material, parts of his book has a rushed, sketchy feel, while other sections (especially the chapter discussing Artie's relationship with women) bore the reader with excessive details. McCumber's occasional Hunter Thompson–type prose is distracting and weakens his book. Still, as the Mitchells knew, sex sells, so there probably will be demand.—*Wilda Williams, "Library Journal"*

Parapsychology

Hultkrantz, Abe.
Shamanic Healing and Ritual Drama.
Crossroad Pub. Co. 1992. c.192p. bibliog. ISBN 0-8245-1188-3. $19.95. PARAPSYCH

Native North Americans live in a holistic society that integrates health, medicine, and religion with the environment. Hultkrantz (comparative religion, Univ. of Stockholm) gives a historical overview to regional practices of healing and its interaction with modern medicine. The author's attempt to span the large number of ethnic groups within North America creates a fast-paced overview, which is uneven due to the lack of available writings. Herbs, spiritual trances, societal support, and confession are some of the healing practices discussed, along with brief case studies. Though many Native American groups are becoming acculturated, these holistic healing rituals will survive because of renewed interest in New Age religions. For larger Native American collections.—*L. Kriz, Sioux City P.L., Ia.*

Political Science

Barzelay, Michael with Babak J. Armajani.
Breaking Through Bureaucracy: A New Vision for Managing in Government.
Univ. of California Pr. 1992. c.280p. permanent paper. index. LC 91-39396. ISBN 0-520-07800-4. $35; **pap.** ISBN 0-520-07801-2. $14. GOVT

Barzelay teaches at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and his study of Minnesota state government reform was funded by the Program on Innovations in State and Local Government. Barzelay's text offers a practical examination of government management, while his extensive notes provide a theoretical critique of political leadership and bureaucratic administration. While similar to David Osborne and Ted Gaebler's *Reinventing Government* (Addison-Wesley, 1992) in arguing for more attention to outcomes (rather than inputs), empowered employees, and a customer orientation, Barzelay is less anti-government and more pragmatic in his approach. His "post-bureaucratic paradigm" recognizes the importance of government and the problems of market-based operations. In addition, Barzelay's theoretical and less generalized arguments will make his work the more lasting critique of modern bureaucratic government. For academic and special collections.—*William Waugh Jr., Georgia State Univ., Atlanta*

George, John & Laird Wilcox.
Nazis, Communists, Klansmen and Others on the Fringe: Political Extremism in America.
Prometheus Bks. Dec. 1992. c.504p. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-87975-680-2. $27.95. POLITICS

This survey of American extremism, right and left, cries out for editing. The authors have seemingly thrown in all the material that was at hand, some useful and much tangential and distracting. Meaningful details and research are intermingled higgledy-piggledy with feeble history, banal analysis, and outright sloppiness, and the result is a shapeless mass of information. The bulk of the book is a series of descriptions of specific extremist groups, and its selling point would be that it includes both ends of the spectrum. But the book's digressions and scattershot quality undermine its value both as reference work and as reading material. Libraries would do better with books treating either end of the spectrum more systematically—for instance, Mari Jo Buhle and others' *Encyclopedia of the American Left* (*LJ* 6/15/90) and the Anti-Defamation League's *Extremism on the Right: A Handbook* (A.D.L., 1988).—*Timothy Christenfeld, Columbia Univ.*

Walker, Anne Collins.
China Calls: Paving the Way for Nixon's Historic Journey to China.
Madison Bks., dist. by National Bk. Network. Dec. 1992. c.454p. permanent paper. ed. by John & Elizabeth Eastman. index. ISBN 0-8191-8619-8. $24.95. INT AFFAIRS

This first book published by The Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace is a small monument to a giant ego. Constructed from the taped (naturally) telephone talks between the White House Advance Office in China headed by Ron Walker (code-named Roadrunner) and staffers back in Washington, it minutely details the preparations for Nixon's "week that changed the world." At the same time endlessly boring and endlessly fascinating, it reveals a group of hardworking but sophomoric and culture-bound Americans concerned above all with photo opportunities and